

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 28, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 21-25 are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 1-25 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Babbs (hereinafter “Babbs”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,919 to Betsuyaku (hereinafter “Betsuyaku”) and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Babbs and Betsuyaku do not suggest the desirability of the claimed invention. *The prior art must suggest the desirability of the claimed invention.* See MPEP 2143.01. The Office Action admits at page 3 that “Babbs does not disclose rectangular supporting bars connecting two support members.” The Office Action cites Betsuyaku as disclosing rectangular supporting bars that improve durability, sealing performance, good anti-staining performance, unmanned use, automation and ease of cleaning. Applicant respectfully submits that this does not suggest the desirability of the claimed invention. In particular, there is no teaching of causation between the rectangular supporting bars of Betsuyaku and the improved durability, sealing performance, good anti-staining performance, unmanned use, automation and ease of cleaning. Therefore there is no desirability “to modify the apparatus of Babbs to include rectangular supporting bars”. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 7-19.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babbs in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Stadler et al. (hereinafter “Stadler”). Claim 2 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 2 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “at least two rectangular supporting bars connected to at least two of the plurality of support members”. None of the cited references, including Babbs and

Stadler, teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. In particular, the Office Action admits at page 3 that "Babbs does not disclose rectangular supporting bars connecting two support members." Stadler fails to remedy the deficiency of Babbs. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable over the cited references and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 4-6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,361 to Babbs in view of Betsuyaku and reconsideration is requested. As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." The Applicant respectfully submits that Babbs and Betsuyaku do not teach every element recited in claims 4-6 and 20. Claim 4 recites a liquid crystal display panel supporting cassette device which comprises, among other features, liquid crystal display panels that include "a first substrate having a plurality of thin film transistor arrays and a second substrate having a plurality of color filters such that the first and second substrates are bonded together." The Applicant submits that Babbs and Betsuyaku do not disclose this feature. Rather, Babbs discloses a single substrate supported in each slot of the cassette device. Babbs fails to teach or suggest supporting an entire liquid crystal display panel including first and second substrates bonded together. Furthermore, Betsuyaku also fails to teach or suggest supporting an entire liquid crystal display panel including first and second substrates bonded together. Accordingly, claim 4, along with claims 5, 6 and 20, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references and the Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 21-25 are allowable in that each of the claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "at least two supporting bars connected to at least two of the plurality of support members, the at least two supporting bars each having an upper surface, the upper surfaces each having a length and width, wherein each of the at least two supporting bars are configured to support a lower surface of a substrate by the length and width of the upper surfaces of the at least two supporting bars." None of the cited references, including Babbs, Betsuyaku and Stadler, teaches or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

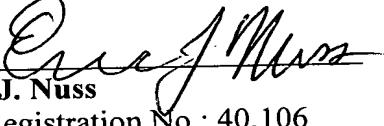
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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